

2004 Report of Accomplishments

Kittitas County Conservation District



Natural Resource Improvements in 2003 - Summary

- Converted the irrigation system on 490 acres from rill (furrow) to sprinklers by installing 1 linear move and 6 center pivot sprinkler systems. The conversions resulted in 5.68 cubic feet per second and 1642 acre feet/year of water dedicated to Wilson Creek, Lyle Creek, Big Creek and the Teanaway River for 10 years.
- Conserved nearly 8,200 tons of soil on 1702 acres through the application of polyacrylamide (PAM).
- Assessed fish habitat and inventoried barriers on 80 miles of stream in the Kittitas Valley.
- Re-published 2,000 copies of the Rural Living Handbook and 3,000 copies of the Small Ranch Manual to provide basic land management information to new landowners.



Governor Gary Locke (center) and Valoria Loveland (right) visit an Irrigation Efficiencies project on Wilson Creek in December 2003.

Mission of the Kittitas County Conservation District

- Provide leadership and technical assistance to landowners/operators in their management of natural resources.

Water Quality Implementation

- See Local Funding below for the results of the PAM cost share activities. Water Quality Implementation funds utilized for cost share reached nearly \$2,500 (included in the total paid to landowners).
- Two Hundred and twenty GIS farm plan maps were provided to landowners for their use in conservation planning.
- KCCCD designed a gated pipe system to prevent the movement of sediment and bacteria into the irrigation water down slope of a feedlot. Material purchase occurred in FY03, practice installation occurred in the fall of 2003.

Basic Funding

- Basic funding was used to support district operations, including administrative, managerial and training functions.

Local Funding

- The Kittitas County PAM Cost Share Program has resulted in thousands of tons of soil saved since the 1999 irrigation season. This program matches funds from the landowner, Kittitas County Public Works and the Conservation Commission through the implementation grants. In 2004, the KCCCD added PAM application devices as a cost sharable item with a 50% cost share rate and a \$150 cap.

	Acres Enrolled	Estimated Tons of Soil Saved	Cost Share Paid to Landowners
1999	933	1,314	\$ 1,852
2000	1,566	7,562	\$ 7,562
2001	2,737	12,418	\$ 7,327
2002	1,928	9,774	\$ 6,255
2003	1702	8,190	\$ 4,769

Watershed Conservation/Habitat Restoration

- KCCCD staff worked under the Yakima Tributary Access and Habitat Program completing 80+ miles of stream assessment in the Kittitas Valley, applying for nearly \$1 million in Salmon Recovery Funding Board grant funds, implementing Phase I of the Coleman Creek Project and finalizing the design for Phase II (removal of a perched culvert and installation of a fish screen). Engineering, design, cultural resource surveys and permit applications for a dozen other screening and passage related projects were completed or are underway.

- KCCD planted nearly 3,000 seedlings at two sites on the Teanaway River and one site along Wilson Creek. Contracted labor with Americorps and the Washington Conservation Corp completed most of the planting. The Wilson Creek planting included a drip irrigation system.
- In support of the Teanaway Temperature TMDL and the Upper Yakima River Suspended Sediment TMDL, KCCD staff sampled the water at 11 sites in the Teanaway watershed. Parameters include temperature, suspended sediment, turbidity and discharge. These activities were funded by BPA via Ecology and a Centennial Clean Water Fund Grant. The BPA funded portion was completed in December 2003. A report was completed detailing the results. It can be accessed at www.kccd.net.
- KCCD staff completed the Waterway Monitoring and Landowner Assistance Project (funded by a 319 Grant). The final report details the results of water quality monitoring in the lower Cherry Creek watershed from 2000 through 2002. A second report includes case studies of 14 recent projects on-farm in Kittitas County. Both reports may be access at www.kccd.net.
- KCCD contracted staff from the Kittitas County Water Purveyors to manage the multi-million dollar Manastash Restoration Project. The project goal is to construct facilities that allow diversion of irrigation water while accommodating fish passage and screening. Several meetings per month have occurred including meetings of the Steering Committee, Engineering Subcommittee, Permits Subcommittee, and Stockwater Subcommittee.



The Wilson Creek planting project required the use of a "ferry" to move supplies to the opposite bank.

Irrigation Efficiencies

- KCCD funded five contracts totaling 490 acres and 15 landowners. Projects included six center pivot systems, one linear sprinkler system, and 7,700 feet of piping for irrigation water delivery to the farms. The contracts saved a total of 5.68 cfs and 1642 acre-feet/year, which will remain in Wilson Creek, Big Creek, Lyle Creek and the Teanaway River for 10 years. Over \$1 million was contracted to landowners for project implementation.

Small Farm Programs

- KCCD small farm assistance focused on the distribution of the Rural Living Handbook and the Small Ranch Manual. Three thousand copies of the Small Ranch Manual and 2,000 copies of the Rural Living Handbook were reprinted at a cost of \$13,734. The reprints were funded by an EPA 319 Grant through the Department of Ecology. Both publications are aimed at new rural landowners.

Information & Education

- Hosted or attended the KCCD Annual Meeting; and Kittitas County Hay Grower's Conference. Total attendance was 120.
- Hosted KCCD Annual Summer Field Tour at Rosbach Farms. Topics included radio telemetry data collection for soil moisture levels and Irrigation Efficiencies projects. Attendance was 23.
- KCCD booth at the Kittitas County Fair (attendance greater than 60,000 over five days), including a live demonstration of erosion control using PAM.
- Operated one of several stations aimed at educating the 343 third grade students (and 50 parents) from the Kittitas, Thorp, Cle Elum-Roslyn, Easton, Ellensburg Christian School, Damman, and Ellensburg School Districts at the WSU Cooperative Extension Ag Day.
- The KCCD provided approximately \$750 to 3 classrooms to fund costs for agricultural related field trips, an 8-acre community garden and maintenance of flowerbeds.
- KCCD published three newsletters with information about projects and available cost share and technical assistance. Circulation is 1,300.

Washington Conservation Districts assisting land managers with their conservation choices